

**TO: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL  
16 JANUARY 2013**

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## **WORKING GROUP UPDATE REPORT AND 2013/14 WORK PROGRAMME**

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved to date by the working group of the Panel reviewing school governance and invites the Working Group to consider its work programme for 2013/14.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**That the Panel:**

- 2.1 **notes the progress achieved to date by its working group reviewing school governance; and**
- 2.2 **considers its work programme for 2013/14.**

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 To keep the Panel up to date regarding the activities of its School Governance Working Group and to seek its views in respect of its work programme for 2013/14.

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 None.

### **5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### School Governance

- 5.1 The Panel established this Working Group to review school governance in Bracknell Forest's schools with a view to identifying areas for improvement in the light of the new Ofsted framework which places greater emphasis on the role of school governors and governance arrangements.
- 5.2 The first meeting of the Working Group took place on 13 September 2012 when Members received an introductory briefing from officers, discussed extracts from Ofsted inspections of the Borough's schools relating to governance and considered the scope of the review. The Working Group subsequently agreed the scope and prepared questionnaires for Link and Parent Governors. The questionnaires were used to gain the views of governors which were gathered at the Link Governors Forum and at an arranged meeting with parent governors. The Working Group has also considered the effect of new legislation on governing bodies and discussed the best approach to undertaking a skills audit of governors.

- 5.3 The Working Group proposes to meet Chairmen of Governors at its next meeting to obtain their views on matters including skills gaps in governing bodies and the self-evaluation toolkit.

2013/14 Work Programme

- 5.4 The Panel is invited to suggest topics for inclusion in its 2013/14 work programme. The 2012/13 work programme is attached at Appendix 1 as a point of reference.

**6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS / EQUALITIES  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT / STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES /  
CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

Background Papers

None.

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## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

The proposed work programme for O&S from 2012/13 is shown on the following pages. The programme is aimed at maintaining a strategic and coordinated work programme based on major areas of Council and partner organisations' activity. The selection of review topics takes account of what is of direct and significant interest to residents, and what would be timely, relevant, and likely to add value. The programme incorporates the routine, on-going work of O&S and the completion of reviews currently underway.

The O&S Commission has consulted the O&S Panels, the Council's Corporate Management Team and the Executive on the work programme, as required by the Council's Constitution.

The work programme will necessarily be subject to continual refinement and updating. The 'future proposed reviews' are those which are unlikely to be resourced until 2013/14 or later.

<b>CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL</b>	
1.	<p><b>Monitoring the performance of the Children, Young People and Learning Department</b></p> <p>To include on-going review of the Quarterly Service Reports, receiving statutory plans and reports (such as the annual reports on the Children and Young People's Plan, and on complaints received) and monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel.</p>
2.	<p><b>Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan</b></p>
3.	<p><b>2013/14 Budget Scrutiny</b></p> <p>To review the Council's Children, Young People and Learning budget proposals for 2013/14, and plans for future years.</p>
4.	<p><b>Schools Governance</b></p> <p>To review the comments by Ofsted about governance in Bracknell Forest Schools, and the arrangements being made to ascertain and achieve effective governance in all schools. The review might focus on the importance of sound governance, the support given to school governors, and the effect of the new legislation concerning local authority and community representation on governing bodies.</p>
5.	<p><b>Policy Development</b></p> <p>To contribute to the formulation of the Council's new Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy.</p>

<b>FUTURE PROPOSED REVIEWS</b> <b>(Unlikely to be resourced until 2013/14 or later)</b>	
<b><u>Children, Young People and Learning</u></b>	
5.	<b>The Provision of School Places</b> To review the Council's arrangements for planning and providing places for children in Bracknell Forest's schools, to include the school admissions process. One focus of the review might be the greater complexity introduced by the Academies and Free Schools legislation.
6.	<b>Supporting Disadvantaged Children and Families</b> To review the implementation of the Child Poverty Strategy, together with the Council's arrangements for the Government's initiative on 'Troubled Families'.